

soon as Jacob Warwick came to manhood , Robert Sitlington moved to his own prop-
erty near old Millboro. ^{Jacob}
Jacob Warwick who now owned the Durmore property,
always cherished the highest filial regard, for Robert Sitlington his step father,
and for whose honor the branch was named . The Railroad station at the mouth
of Sitlington Creek, was so named in honor of Robert Sitlington, the pioneer
and Revolutionary War Veteran.

Robert Sitlington, s Affidavit as a Revolutionary War Vetern is as follows:

ROBERT SITLINGTON: ^{County} BATH Sept 26th 1832. (Date of Affidavit)

Born -1749 . In 1776. went out as substitute two months for
Nathan Crawford, serving as ranger and Spy at Wafwicks Fort under captain
John Lewis and Captain Samuel Vance. Drafted 1777 to serve against the Indians
at Warwick, and Cloverlick Forts, under Captain Samuel Vance ,and Lieutenant-
John Cartmill. Served four or six weeks against the British 1778-1779. under
Captain John McCoy. Discharged at Richmond. Drafted for six weeks in 1781 and
marched under Captain David Gwin to Guilford ; was in the battle.

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Natural Setting
Pocahontas County History
Subject Chapter Three Part 1 Sec D.

Date Feb 8th 1941

Research Worker Roscoe W. Brown

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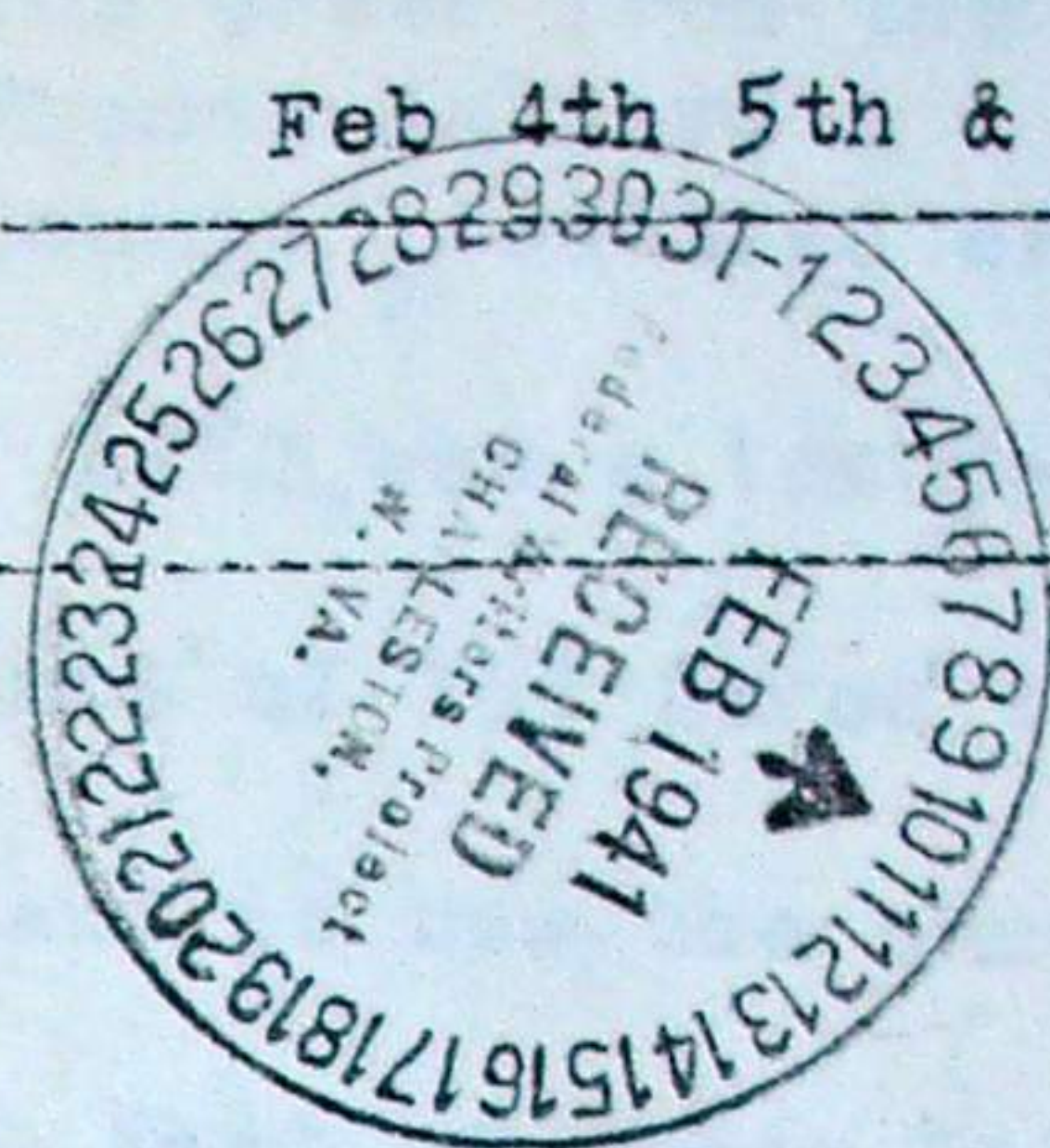
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NATURAL SETTING CHAPTER THREE (Pocahontas County)

(Part 1)

(Sec D)

Roscoe W. Brown.

Feb. 8th 1940

GALFORDS CREEK:- Galfords Creek , the head waters of Sitlington Creek from Glade Hill Eastward have been locally known as Galfords Creek from the very earliest settlement of of this region of Pocahontas County ^{Thomas Galford} settled on Galfords Creek then called Sitlington Creek, about the year of 1782, was a tax payer at the date . The Pioneer Thomas Galford secured a Land Grant of 154 Acres of land situate on Sitlington Creek , bearing date of 1794 , and is now the same land, owned by Wade Galford and Charley Wilfong, on Galfords Creek East of Glade Hill; There is a tradition ~~that~~ handed down among the Galford decendants that the pioneer Thomas Galford , gave a Bear Trap for his first homestead on Galfords Creek, this could have happened in the way of barter , and no record made of the transaction.

Galfords Creek has two branches , known as Right hand prong, and Left hand ^{prong} prong ; The left hand prong is known as the Big Spring Branch of Galfords Creek, which gives rise in a very large Gravelly Spring , known as the Big Spring;

This Spring is situated at a very high altitude, in the Alleghany Mountains between the Ranshorn mountain, and the Guinn Ridge .

The main Galfords Creek , or Right hand prong, has a total length of 6.1 miles , with a total fall of 1125 feet, with a rate of fall per mile , of 184.4 feet per mile, and has a drainage are basin of 8.65 square miles .

The Left Hand Prong known as the Big Spring branch has a length of 3.2 miles , with a total fall of 1250 feet, with a rate of fall per mile, of 390.6 feet, and has a drainage basin area of 2.48 square miles.

The Virgin forest of the Galfords Creek was taken out by the North Fork Lumber Company, and the Raywood Lumber Company , in the year of 1926. The Galfords Creek was heavily timbered with the famous Hemlock trees, which kept the sunshine from the stream , and thereby made it favorable for the Mountain Brook Trout, which infested its waters clear to the head spränge .

Some of the first settlers on upper Galfords Creek was Ludy Taylor ., and Samuel Posten who had settled on the lands that was later occupied by Richard Hudson. The name " Galfords Creek" was so named by the early settlement made by the pioneer Thomas Galford, and the historical incident that happened in his family, which was the primary cause, in naming the branch "Galfords Creek."

The Story in brief, as follows:- It is a matter of authentic history, that Thomas Galford was living with his family on what is now Galfords Creek, when the Indians were still making raids throughout the country. His daughter Elizabeth 14 years of age was sent on an errand and was never heard of afterwards ; word was sent to all the settlers far and near , and vain search was made ; while searching along the creek thinking she had fallen in the water and drowned, they found a large Indian trail , the tracks of the girl, some bits of cloth, and other signs which gave evidence that Elizabeth had been captured by the Indians.

The trail was followed till it became so obscure that, the idea of recapturing the girl was given up for the time. A few month subsequently Thomas Galford with a man by the name of Samuel Gregory , went on through to the Indian villages in Ohio but found no evidence of the missing girl. There is a tradition , or true story, that upon their return, they captured two fine horses from the Indians , and knowing that they would be followed, by the Indians, returned on their own trail, and in ambush shot two or three of the Indians , which put a check on the pursuit, and then by travelling all night made their escape back home. The ornaments and bracelets, were taken from the Indians , which was burned when Thomas Galford Junior, lost his house by fire . The captured horses were two fine stallions , the Bay was called " Buck Rabbit" and the other " Irish Grey" Buck Rabbit was sold to John Bird , the ancestor of the Bird relation of Highland County . The other was bought by John Harness a trader from Staunton (SEE Prices History for this note,)

The fact that Elizabeth Galford was captured by the indians , is an authentic historical fact, It is one of the tragedies common among the early settlers of the Greenbrier valley, while this incident occurred more than one hundred and fifty years ago

- and as long as Galfords Creek will ripple on toward the sea, placidly, with its eternal scheme of nature, it will serve as a marker or monument to perpetuate the memory of ^{the} capture of Elizabeth Galford by the Indians.

STONY RUN;- Stony Run is the largest branch that flows into the Galford-Creek, it has an entire length of 3.3 miles with a total fall of 1400 feet and has a fall of 442.2 feet per mile, with a drainage area basin of 4.30 square miles.

The Warn Lumber Company built a standard gauge Railroad up Stony Run and crossed the Allegheny Mountain at the head of Stony Run and went down on the waters of the Ruckman Draft ^{in Virginia} and hauled quite a lot of timber from the South of the Allegheny Mountain to the Lumber Mill at Raywood near Sitlington, The undertaking of hauling timber across the Allegheny and keeping up the Railroad ~~was~~ was a very expensive undertaking, and the project was abandoned leaving much of the virgin forest on the South side of the Allegheny mountain.

When the Railroad crossed the Allegheny Mountain at the head of Stony Run, the elevation is near about 4000 feet.

The water of the Stony Run is clear as crystal and was ice cold before the virgin forest was taken out; The bottom land of the Stony Run is very rocky, and at the mouth of the Run where it flows into Galfords Creek it is completely covered with small creek worn stones, and thereby it has been called STONEY RUN for many years.

THORNEY BRANCH- The Thorney Branch: is a small branch that flows into the Sitlington Creek West of what is termed as Galfords Creek, and gives rise near the divide of the waters of Rosin Run . The Thorney Branch has an entire length of 3.8 miles with a fall of 450 feet, with a ^{fall} of 118.4 feet per mile, and has a n area of a drainage basin of 1.78 square miles .

The Thorny Branch valley was origionally covered with the famous White - Pine , timber . The virgin White pine was takeⁿout by the Sliding system about the year of 1890. The slide was built by hewing one side of the logs and p^{to}aning them down ^a short log forming a V shaped gutter for the logs to side in , the team of horses was hitched to the rear log which was called a bumper, about 25 or 30 logs would be rolled in the slide each being seperated a few inches or feet , by the use of a Trail Bar; The slide would be well watered , by the use of a water barrel which was run over the Slide before the logs were rolled in. Sliding was done in freezing weather, The Bumper log in the rear was hauled by a " J " Grab so that if the trail ran away the team would be free from entanglement.

The Thorney Branch, received its name from the many thorn trees that grew on the branch, and the variety that seemed to grow most abundantly was the " Dotted Thorn" which can be identified by the large red or yellow fruit which gives it a very attractive appearance in the fall. Some times the tree will grow 35 feet in height , with a diameter of 8 to 14 inches, The trunk is thick and short, and the crown id very broad and flat-tpped.

The Bark is gray with thin scales on old trunks and the branches are covered with straight thornes which are $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.

The leaves are alternate, simple, tapering at the base, almost blunt pointed at the apex and irregularly serrate or sometimes lobed.

The Flowers appear in May and June and are white. The fruit ripens in the fall

The Seed is heavy, hard, and close grained. This tree prefer^s rich sandy soils of mountain borders and grows in thickets. It is a common tree of high elevations and is of no importance commercially.

SHOCK RUN;- Shock Run is that branch of Sitlington Creek that flows on the North-East side of the Michael Mountain and connects with Sitlington Creek near the Gap at the North-East end of Michael Mountain .

This Branch was formerly called Buzzards Creek , for about 100 years. Ruben Buzzard the progenitor of all the Buzzards of Pocahontas County settled on this Branch and the most of his children settled on this Branch or very near to it, and the vicinity was locally known as " Buzzards Roost "

The State Highway passes through the BuzzardCreek Valley and in the hay harvest time , hay SHOCKS may be seen by the thousand , and some folks passing through nick-named the Branch, Shock Run in correspondence of the many Hay Shocks that could be seen in the meadows, the name seems to cling to the the Run , which was locally known as Buzzards Creek.

The Shock Run or Buzzards Creek Has an entire length of 3.9 miles with a total fall of 1380 feet, with a fall of 358.3 feet per mile , and has a drainage area basin of 10.65 square miles .

This Valley is a fine farming section, and has been well adapted to fruit raising, and there is plausible reason for believing that the largest apple tree in Pocahontas County, and it may be even in West Virginia, may be seen near the place where Reuben Buzzard built his frontier home. It measures three feet and six inches in diameter . the branches were about 40 feet long. Seventy five bushels have been gathered from this tree at one time. (See Prices History of Pocahontas County concerning this large Apple tree.) This Branch should continue under the name of Buzzards Creek in honor of the old Pioneer Reuben Buzzard which bore his name for a century or more .

NATURAL SETTING CHAPTER THREE (Pocahontas Counth)

ROSCOE W. BROWN.

Dec 13th 1940.

(Part 1)

(Sec D)

The North Fork of Deer Creek , or (North Fork Creek) as the name is applied to the branch , is incorrectly named , the name does not mean any thing whatsoever, The branch of Deer Creek called North Fork Creek is the east branch of Deer Creek and is not the North Fork as has been named .

The North Fork of Deer Creek (or the original Warwicks Creek) was at first named "Cartmills Creek " in honor of Thomas Cartmill who had secured a patent or land Grant, from the Commonwealth of Virginia for 358 acres of land bearing date of June 13th 1780 while under the regime of Augusta County.

This tract of land is situated between the " Mine Bank " and the Eastern part of the ~~TOWN~~ of Greenbank including the mouth of Roain Run and is the first survey of land taken up on the North Fork Creek adjoining the Warwick lands

This branch of Deer Creek was called Cartmills Creek for a period of twenty five or thirty years from 1780 till about 1810 as shown in giving the local description of the lands situated on the waters of Cartmills Creek.

Thomas Cartmill was a Revolutionary War veteren and was sworn in as a Captain of The Virginia Militia on May 11 th 1780 (It should have continued under the name of Cartmills Creek .) The North Fork Creek is cold and clear as cryatal , has been infested with the famous mountain Brook Trout, the stream has an entire length 11.8 miles and an area of drainage of 29.48 sq miles , a total fall of 1570 feet from the source to the conjunction of Deer Creek proper with a rate of fall per mile of 131 . 9 feet .

The facility for water power mills on the North Fork of Deer Creek has led to the establishment and erection of several Water power mills on the Creek , vis. The mill of the Pioneer Wooddells, in Greenbank ; And Dr, J.P. Mccrau mill, and Patrick Bruffey, and Uriah Hevener Sr, mills, on the site of the North Fork-Milling Company, Solomon Conrad mill. R.J. Browns mill at the mouth of Sutton Run Time , decay, and fire have destroyed all the water power mills located on the North Fork Creek.

(Hellebore Run)

The Hellebore Run is a branch of the North Fork Creek , that flows due North a distance of 3.25 miles with a fall of 950 feet with a rate of fall per mile of about 292.3 feet.

The Hellebore Run was named from the numerous Hellebore plants that grew on the run , especially on the head of the run , where the plants grew mostly in the damp and wet parts of the narrow bottom .

The Hellebore Run section was first developed by Jacob Hevener Sr a cattle raiser of Hightown Virginia, who had secured a land grant or patent of 650 acres bearing date of 1838 and later other tracts adjoining, situated on the Allegheny mountain , Hellebore Ridge , and Hellebore Run, and employed John Spencer as a tenant to clear the lands and herd his cattle, horses, and sheep, that he ranged on the Allegheny mountains, now called the Hellebore Ridge grazing farm (but now in possession of the U.S. Forest Service) About 1000 Acres of the Hellebore Run section was fenced up by felling down the trees .

The shining plaited leaves of the Hellebore plants put forth so early in the spring , and was so tempting to the young cattle, that they would eat the young Hellebore which is very poisonous , and would die from its poisonous effect, and from this fact that John Spenser the pioneer of the Hellebore Run , spent much of his time in the spring of the years cutting out the poisonous Helleber plants and thereby he gave it the name of Hellebore Run, and the Hellebore Ridge , one of the highest points in the State of West Virginia , received its name from the Run , whis is situated on the south west side of the Run .

The plant from which the Hellebore Run took its name , is of the Lily family, and called American White Hellebore; Indian Poke; and Itch Weed; . It is a native of West Virginia. ^{The Flowers,} Dingy, Yellowish or white green, growing greener with age.

1 inch or less across, very numerous, in stiff-branching, spike-like, dense-flowered panicles. Perianth of 6 oblong segments; 6 short curved stamens; 3 styles.

Stem: is stout, leafy 2 to 5 feet tall. Leaves: Plaited, the lower ones broadly oval, pointed 6 to 12 inches long; parallel ribbed, sheathing the stem where they clasp it; with the upper leaves gradually narrowing; the leaves among the flowers are small.

It prefers to grow in Swamps, Wet Woods, and low Meadows, and blooms between the months of May and July. And grows in the South Eastern part of the United States.

The Name of Hellebore Run and Hellebore Ridge for some unknown reason is incorrectly spelled "ELLEBER" which appears in the Geological Survey records of Pocahontas County, and the Topographical Surveys of U.S. F.S. (Should be spelled "HELLEBORE, ")

The Griffin Run , a branch of the Hellebore Run , is a small branch 1.6 miles long , with a fall of 875 feet , with 546.8 feet fall per mile and has a drainage area of 2.53 square miles.

This Branch is very rough and narrow and the mountain sides are very steep and rough but is productive. The Griffin Run for many years was called Cherry Run , until about the year of 1892 when an old mountaineer by the name of Riley Griffin , who wished to live far back in the mountains, among the wild animals , and wild game , and game fish of the mountain streams, and enjoy the fastness, and solitude, of the virgin forest of the Allegheny Mountains, and secured by Deed a tract of land on the branch now called Griffin Run ; The land he owned was very steep almost up on edge.

By much persistence he built up a home , reared a large family, made lots of money, and always carried it in stocking leg or boot leg, he lived sumptuously; Wild Turkey, Venison, and Bear meat was a common article of food upon his table,; He was instrumental in having the Board of Education of the Greenbank District to erect and ~~mayd~~ maintain a Rural School on the Griffin Run for the benefit of his own family and for the benefit of the folks on the head of the North Fork (Which was called the Griffin School)

When the North Fork Lumber Company , was cutting out all the virgin forest of the North Fork Creek and vicinity Griffin became much displeased and because he could not roam through the virgin forest , and shoot squirrels from the ⁱⁿ mamoth white oak trees , sold out his property , and left the country never to return ,; but the Branch will always carry his name ; Hence the name Griffin Run.

The U.S. Government now owns all the lands on the Griffin Run and the Hellebore Run also the head waters of the North Fork Creek.

(BLOCK RUN)

Block Run is a small branch of the North Fork Creek 3.25 miles in length and has a total fall in feet of 1085, and a rate of fall per mile of 293.2 and a drainage area of 2.92 Square miles.

The Block Run has its source near the Top Allegheny Battle Field, and flows ⁱⁿ a southerly direction to unite with the North Fork Creek

This Branch has been quoted as "Black Run" in the U.S. F.S. Maps. But it is locally known as "BLOCK RUN" and receive the ^{name} from the fact that about the year of 1840 Jacob Yeager and his son John Yeager had erected an Up and Down water power Saw mill, below the forks of Block Run, they built a dam across the run with stones which was a complete piece of masonry the wall was about 13 feet high and 200 feet long; the inside was filled with clay, at about an angle of one to one and a half,; When the dam was full of water it covered an acre of ground

When the gate was closed to fill the dam, to run the mill, the run was completely Blocked, The Yeager Mill Dam Blocked the Run, hence the name Block Run.